

**Town of Barnes Tourism Committee meeting
Monday, April 27, 2015 8:30 am.
Barnes Town Office, Barnes, WI**

Members present: Tom Krob, Barb Romstad, Julie Bohl, Dana Hodowanic, Mike Tremblay

Absent: PJ Foat

Also Present: Bruce Hanson, Marcia Welnitz

8:38 am Chairperson Julie Bohl called the meeting to order

1. Verification of public notice/quorum established

Julie verified public notice had been posted per state statutes. Julie conducted a roll call of the members present to establish a quorum; quorum established.

2. Agenda and March 31 minutes approval

Barb made a motion to approve the agenda as posted and also the minutes from the March 31, 2015 meeting, Dana second; motion carried.

3. Chamber memberships

Barb discussed the TOB presence on the HACC website. She has updated it and is asking for some snowmobile and ATV pictures. She also mentioned that we are not correctly represented on the Cable chamber website. Bruce will follow up and see if we can manage our own content as with the HACC – he will also change our listing from *Clubs and Organizations* to *Recreation*. Tom will follow up to see why we are not listed on the Iron River chamber website.

Barb proposed that the TOB create a promotional brochure to be distributed through chambers of which we are members. The group agreed this would be a good project to start work on after the Vatten Paddlar.

Julie made a motion to suspend the agenda and move discussion of item # 6 to the front, Tom second; motion carried.

4. TOB Tourism Committee working with the local organizations

Mike Tremblay had asked that the group consider ways in which the organizations in the town could coordinate the publicity of events and projects. He feels that the efforts of the groups are not always known throughout the community. Some ideas were presented; coordinating through the visitbarnes.com website, a facebook page, and liaisons. Once Mike was present to discuss the topic it was agreed that the new website would probably be our best structure to use for this purpose.

5. Vatten Paddlar – Canoe and Kayak Races

Barb presented the race budget to date. We are in good shape and now have the promotional materials ready to distribute. Mike Tremblay will take care of getting the banners and posters to the businesses and picking up the gift certificates. Barb will distribute throughout the Hayward area and solicit possible door prizes when she does. She will also take care of following through with the Brule Canoe Rental business. Northwest Beverage has been extremely generous in their printing of the banners and posters. We all agreed it is our responsibility to drink Leinie – lots of it.

Dana expressed continued concern about the transportation issue. Barb suggested we will need to send emails to race participants asking about their possible shuttle needs. Dana and Barb will try to meet before the next meeting to work through the finish line details.

The lock and dam will be under construction during the race which means no one will be able to lock through. They will not be lowering the level of Middle Eau Claire Lake during the construction.

6. Parks & recreation – tennis court update

Bruce reported that the tennis court project will not be eligible for a grant, however the town has enough funds to pay the cost – we have received a low bid of \$40,000 which also includes the basket ball court. This week Bruce is meeting with a court expert to get another opinion on what our best path forward would be.

At 9:30 Julie turned the chair over to Tom Krob.

7. Other business

- Bruce reported that he had contacted Bayfield County Tourism and Economic Development to see if there were any funds available to help the Snowmobile Club erect a storage building for its equipment. There is no funding in this year's budget.

8. Next Meeting Date

Next meeting will be Monday, May 18, 2015, 8:30 am at the Barnes town office.

9. Mike made a motion to adjourn, Dana second; motion carried

The April 27, 2015, meeting of the TOB Tourism Committee adjourned at 9:55 am.